

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Joseph A. Zupanick
Serial No. : 10/761,629
Filed : January 20, 2004
Title : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING SUBTERRANEAN DEPOSITS
FROM THE SURFACE

Art Unit : 3673
Examiner : John J. Kreck

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

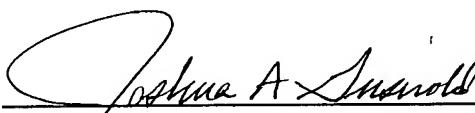
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants request consideration of the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(ii), only copies of foreign patent documents and/or non-patent literature are enclosed. Copies of any listed U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications can be provided upon request.

This filing is being made with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. No fee is believed to be due. However, please apply any deficiencies or any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/2/05


Joshua A. Griswold
Reg. No. 46,310

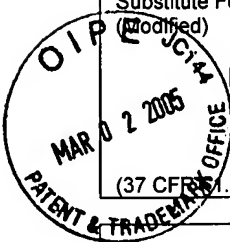
Fish & Richardson P.C.
5000 Bank One Center
1717 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone: (214) 292-4034
Facsimile: (214) 747-2091

90113438.doc

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. EV325807745US

March 2, 2005
Date of Deposit



| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 17601-003010 | Application No. 10/761,629 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b)) | | Applicant Joseph A. Zupanick | |
| | | Filing Date January 20, 2004 | Group Art Unit 3673 |

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | A1 | 3,744,565 | 07/10/1973 | Brown | | | |
| | A2 | 4,060,130 | 11/29/1977 | Hart | | | |
| | A3 | 4,417,829 | 11/29/1983 | Berezoutzky | | | |
| | A4 | 4,889,186 | 12/26/1989 | Hanson et al. | | | |
| | A5 | 5,676,207 | 10/14/1997 | Simon et al. | | | |
| | A6 | 6,237,284 | 05/29/2001 | Erickson | | | |
| | A7 | 2002/0043404 A1 | 04/18/2002 | Trueman et al. | | | |
| | A8 | 2004/0140129 A1 | 07/22/2004 | Gardes | | | |
| | A9 | 2004/0226719 A1 | 11/18/2004 | Morgan et al. | | | |

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | B1 | EP 1 316 673 A2 | 06/04/2003 | EPO | | | N/A | |
| | B2 | 442,008 | 01/23/1936 | United Kingdom | | | N/A | |
| | B3 | 444,484 | 03/17/1936 | United Kingdom | | | N/A | |
| | B4 | 651,468 | 04/04/1951 | United Kingdom | | | N/A | |
| | B5 | 893,869 | 04/18/1962 | United Kingdom | | | N/A | |
| | B6 | SU-876968 | 10/30/1981 | Russia | | | Y | |
| | B7 | WO 2004/035984 A1 | 04/29/2004 | WIPO | | | N/A | |

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| | C1 | Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (5 pages) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (6 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/012029 mailed September 22, 2004 |
| | C2 | Brunner, D.J. and Schwoebel, J.J., "Directional Drilling for Methane Drainage and Exploration in Advance of Mining," REI Drilling Directional Underground, World Coal, 1999, 10 pages |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 17601-003010 | Application No. 10/761,629 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Joseph A. Zupanick | |
| | | Filing Date January 20, 2004 | Group Art Unit 3673 |

| Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication) | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
| | C3 | Thakur, P.C., "A History of Coalbed Methane Drainage From United States Coal Mines," 2003 SME Annual Meeting, February 24-26, Cincinnati, Ohio, 4 pages |
| | C4 | U.S. Climate Change Technology Program, "Technology Options for the Near and Long Term," 4.1.5 Advances in Coal Mine Methane Recovery Systems, pp. 162-164 |
| | C5 | Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (3 pages) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (7 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/017048 mailed October 21, 2004 |
| | C6 | Gardes, Robert, "Multi-Seam Completion Technology," Natural Gas Quarterly, E&P, June 2004, pp. 78-81 |
| | C7 | Baiton, Nicholas, "Maximize Oil Production and Recovery," Vertizental Brochure, received 10/2/2002, 4 pages |
| | C8 | Dreiling, Tim, McClelland, M.L. and Bilyeu, Brad, "Horizontal & High Angle Air Drilling in the San Juan Basin, New Mexico," Dated on or about 3/6/2003, pp. 1-11 |
| | C9 | Fong, David K., Wong, Frank Y., and McIntyre, Frank J., "An Unexpected Benefit of Horizontal Wells on Offset Vertical Well Productivity in Vertical Miscible Floods," Canadian SPE/CIM/CANMET Paper No. HWC94-09, paper to be presented March 20-23, 1994, Calgary, Canada, 10 pages |
| | C10 | Fischer, Perry A., "What's Happening in Production," World Oil, June 2001, p. 27 |
| | C11 | Website of PTTC Network News Volume 7, 1 st Quarter 2001, Table of Contents, http://www.pttc.org/./news/v7n1nn4.htm printed 04/25/2003, 3 pages |
| | C12 | Cox, Richard J.W., "Testing Horizontal Wells While Drilling Underbalanced," Delft University of Technology, August 1998, 68 pages |
| | C13 | McLennan, John, et al., "Underbalanced Drilling Manual," Gas Research Institute, Chicago, Illinois, GRI Reference No. GRI-97/0236, copyright 1997, 502 pages |
| | C14 | The Need for a Viable Multi-Seam Completion Technology for the Powder River Basin, Current Practice and Limitations, Gardes Energy Services, Inc., Believed to be 2003 (8 pages) |
| | C15 | Langley, Diane, "Potential Impact of Microholes Is Far From Diminutive," JPT Online, http://www.spe.org/spe/jpt/jps , November 2004 (5 pages) |
| | C16 | Consol Energy Slides, "Generating Solutions, Fueling Change," Presented at Appalachian E&P Forum, Harris Nesbitt Corp., Boston, October 14, 2004 (29 pages) |
| | C17 | Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (3 pages), and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (5 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/024518 mailed November 10, 2004 |
| | C18 | Schenk, Christopher J., "Geologic Definition and Resource Assessment of Continuous (Unconventional) Gas Accumulations – the U.S. Experience," Website, http://aapg.confex.com/.../ , printed November 16, 2004 (1 page) |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 17601-003010 | Application No. 10/761,629 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Joseph A. Zupanick | |
| | | Filing Date January 20, 2004 | Group Art Unit 3673 |

| Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication) | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
| | C19 | U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, "Characteristics of Discrete and Basin-Centered Parts of the Lower Silurian Regional Oil and Gas Accumulation, Appalachian Basin: Preliminary Results From a Data Set of 25 oil and Gas Fields," U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 98-216, Website, http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1998/of98-216/introl.htm , printed November 16, 2004 (2 pages) |
| | C20 | Zupanick, J., "Coalbed Methane Extraction," 28 th Mineral Law Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, October 16-17, 2003 (48 pages) |
| | C21 | Zupanick, J., "CDX Gas – Pinnacle Project," Presentation at the 2002 Fall Meeting of North American Coal Bed Methane Forum, Morgantown, West Virginia, October 30, 2002 (23 pages) |
| | C22 | Lukas, Andrew, Lucas Drilling Pty Ltd., "Technical Innovation and Engineering Xstrata – Oak Creek Coal Pty Limited," Presentation at Coal Seam Gas & Mine Methane Conference in Brisbane, November 22-23, 2004 (51 pages) |
| | C23 | Field, Tony, Mitchell Drilling, "Let's Get Technical – Drilling Breakthroughs in Surface to In-Seam in Australia," Presentation at Coal Seam Gas & Mine Methane Conference in Brisbane, November 22-23, 2004 (20 pages) |
| | C24 | Zupanick, Joseph A., "Coal Mine Methane Drainage Utilizing Multilateral Horizontal Wells," 2005 SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit, February 28 – March 2, 2005, Salt Lake City, Utah (6 pages) |
| | C25 | The Official Newsletter of the Cooperative Research Centre for Mining Technology and Equipment, CMTE News 7, "Tight-Radius Drilling Clinches Award," June 2001, 1 page |
| | C26 | Listing of 174 References received from Third Party on February 16, 2005 (9 pages) |
| | C27 | Gardes Directional Drilling, "Multiple Directional Wells From Single Borehole Developed," Reprinted from July 1989 edition of Offshore, Copyright 1989 by PennWell Publishing Company (4 pages) |
| | C28 | "Economic Justification and Modeling of Multilateral Wells," Economic Analysis, Hart's Petroleum Engineer International, 1997 (4 pages) |
| | C29 | Mike Chambers, "Multi-Lateral Completions at Mobil Past, Present, and Future," presented at the 1998 Summit on E&P Drilling Technologies, Strategic Research Institute, August 18-19, 1998 in San Antonio, Texas (26 pages) |
| | C30 | David C. Oyler and William P. Diamond, "Drilling a Horizontal Coalbed Methane Drainage System From a Directional Surface Borehole," PB82221516, National Technical Information Service, Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh, PA, Pittsburgh Research Center, April 1982 (56 pages) |
| | C31 | P. Corlay, D. Bossie-Codreanu, J.C. Sabathier and E.R. Delamaide, "Improving Reservoir Management With Complex Well Architectures," Field Production & Reservoir Management, World Oil, January 1997 (5 pages) |
| | C32 | Eric R. Skonberg and Hugh W. O'Donnell, "Horizontal Drilling for Underground Coal Gasification," presented at the Eighth Underground Coal Conversion Symposium, Keystone, Colorado, August 16, 1982 (8 pages) |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 17601-003010 | Application No. 10/761,629 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Joseph A. Zupanick | |
| | | Filing Date January 20, 2004 | Group Art Unit 3673 |

| Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication) | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
| | C33 | Gamal Ismail, A.S. Fada'q, S. Kikuchi, H. El Khatib, "Ten Years Experience in Horizontal Application & Pushing the Limits of Well Construction Approach in Upper Zakum Field (Offshore Abu Dhabi)," SPE 87284, Society of Petroleum Engineers, October 2000 (17 pages) |
| | C34 | Gamal Ismail, H. El-Khatib – ZADCO, Abu Dhabi, UAE, "Multi-Lateral Horizontal Drilling Problems & Solutions Experienced Offshore Abu Dhabi," SPE 36252, Society of Petroleum Engineers, October 1996 (12 pages) |
| | C35 | C.M. Matthews and L.J. Dunn, "Drilling and Production Practices to Mitigate Sucker Rod/Tubing Wear-Related Failures in Directional Wells," SPE 22852, Society of Petroleum Engineers, October 1991 (12 pages) |
| | C36 | H.H. Fields, Stephen Krickovic, Albert Sainato, and M.G. Zabetakis, "Degasification of Virgin Pittsburgh Coalbed Through a Large Borehole," RI-7800, Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations/1973, United States Department of the Interior, 1973 (31 pages) |
| | C37 | William P. Diamond, "Methane Control for Underground Coal Mines," IC-9395, Bureau of Mines Information Circular, United States Department of the Interior, 1994 (51 pages) |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |